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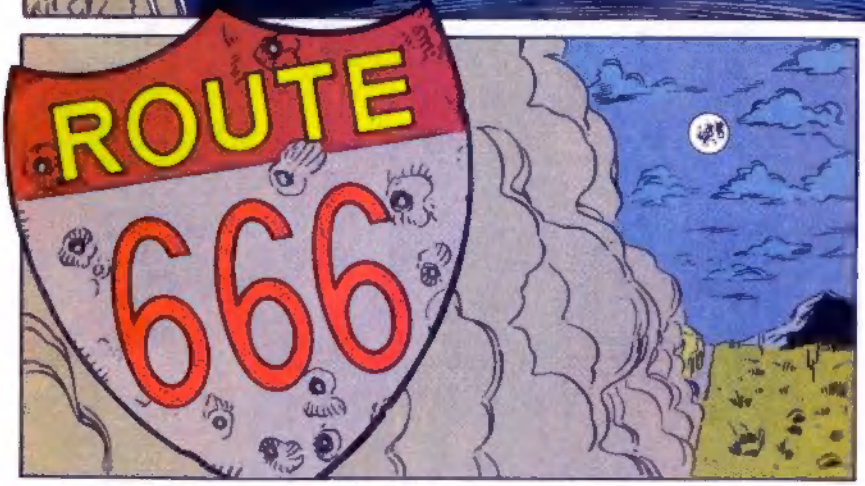


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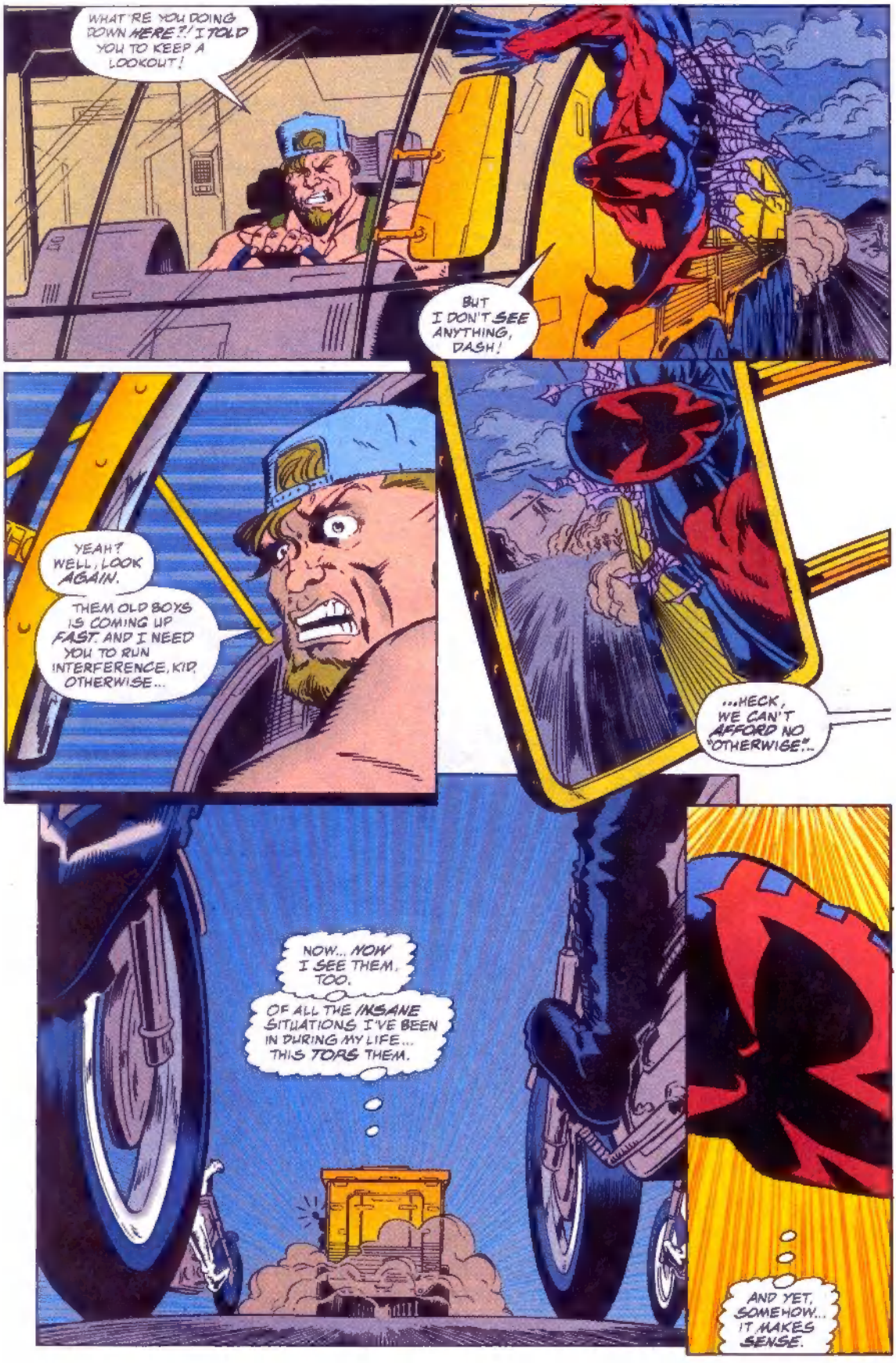
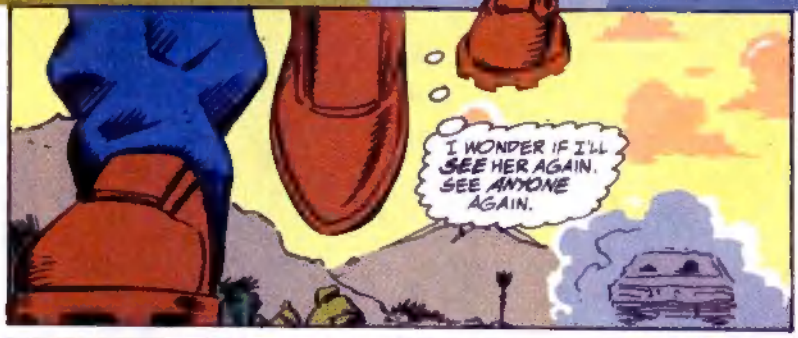
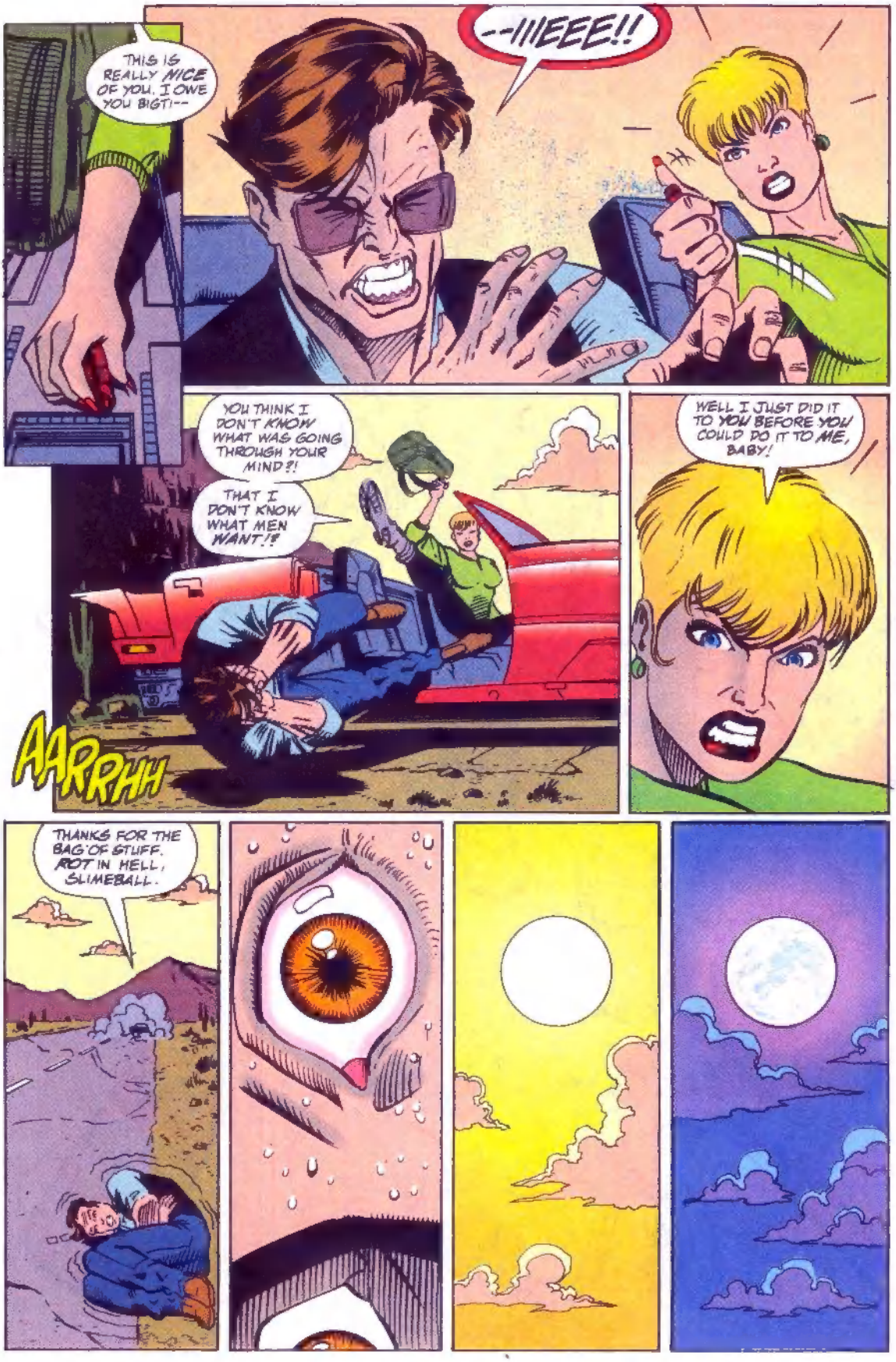

WHAT'RE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?! I TOLD YOU TO KEEP A LOOKOUT!
BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING, DASH!
YEAH? WELL, LOOK AGAIN.
THEM OLD BOYS IS COMING UP FAST. AND I NEED YOU TO RUN INTERFERENCE, KID, OTHERWISE...
...HECK, WE CAN'T AFFORD NO "OTHERWISE"...
NOW... NOW I SEE THEM, TOO.
OF ALL THE INSANE SITUATIONS I'VE BEEN IN DURING MY LIFE... THIS TOPS THEM.
AND YET, SOMEHOW... IT MAKES SENSE.

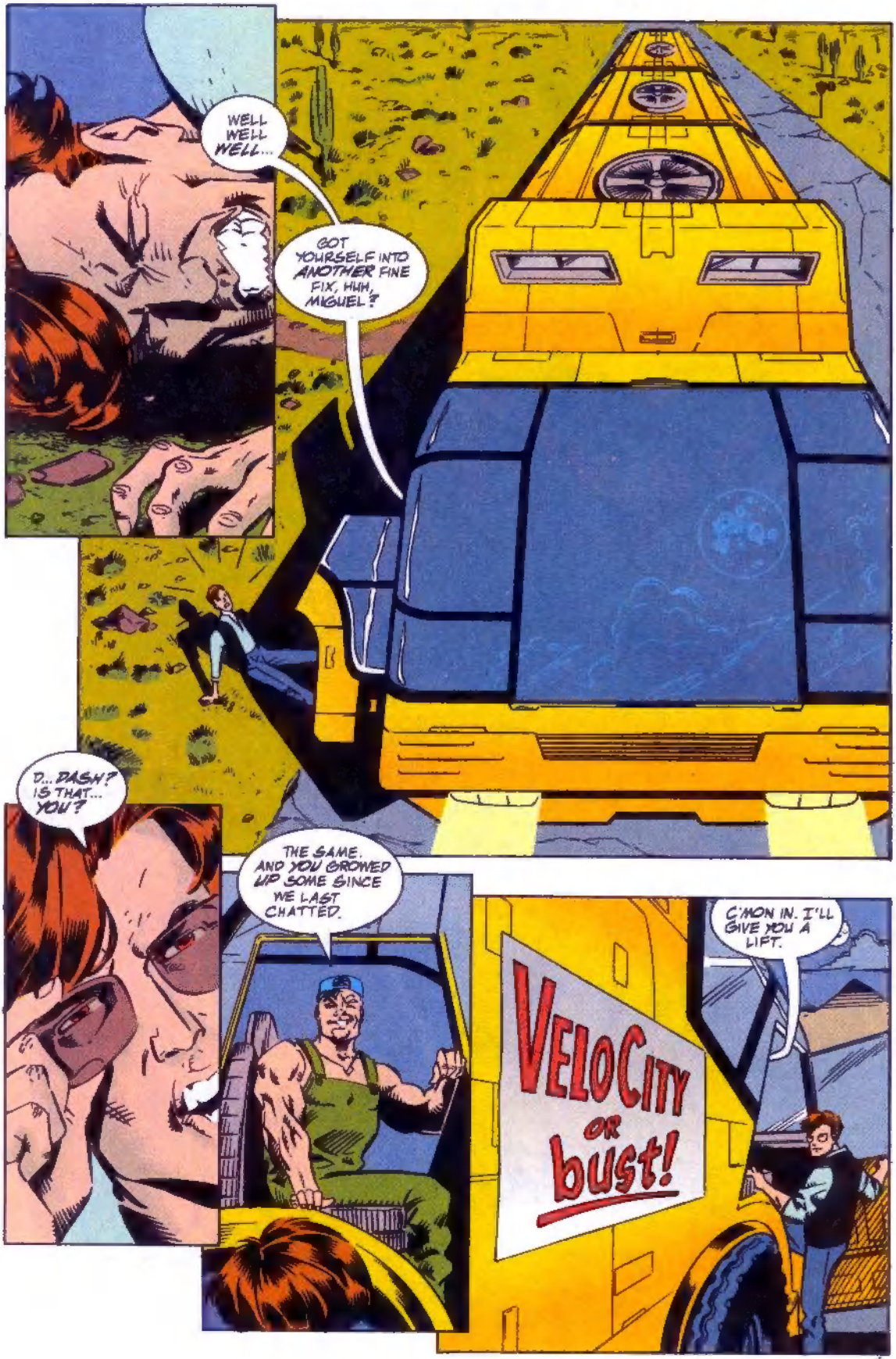
"I WAS... WHAT WAS I DOING?
"OH, YEAH... I WAS WALKING... THINKING ABOUT..."
ANGELA... HOW COULD I HAVE LET YOU DOWN LIKE THAT? YOU'RE DEAD BECAUSE I DIDN'T COME THROUGH FOR YOU.
I COULDN'T SAVE YOU OR YOUR INDY TOWN OF NIGHTSHADE FROM CORPORATE RAIDERS... EITHER AS MIGUEL... OR AS SPIDER-MAN!*
AND XINA... SHE THINKS I'M A COWARD. THAT I RAN OUT ALTOGETHER. NOT THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER IF SHE KNEW THE TRUTH.
XSPIDEY 2099 #28-30--JOEY

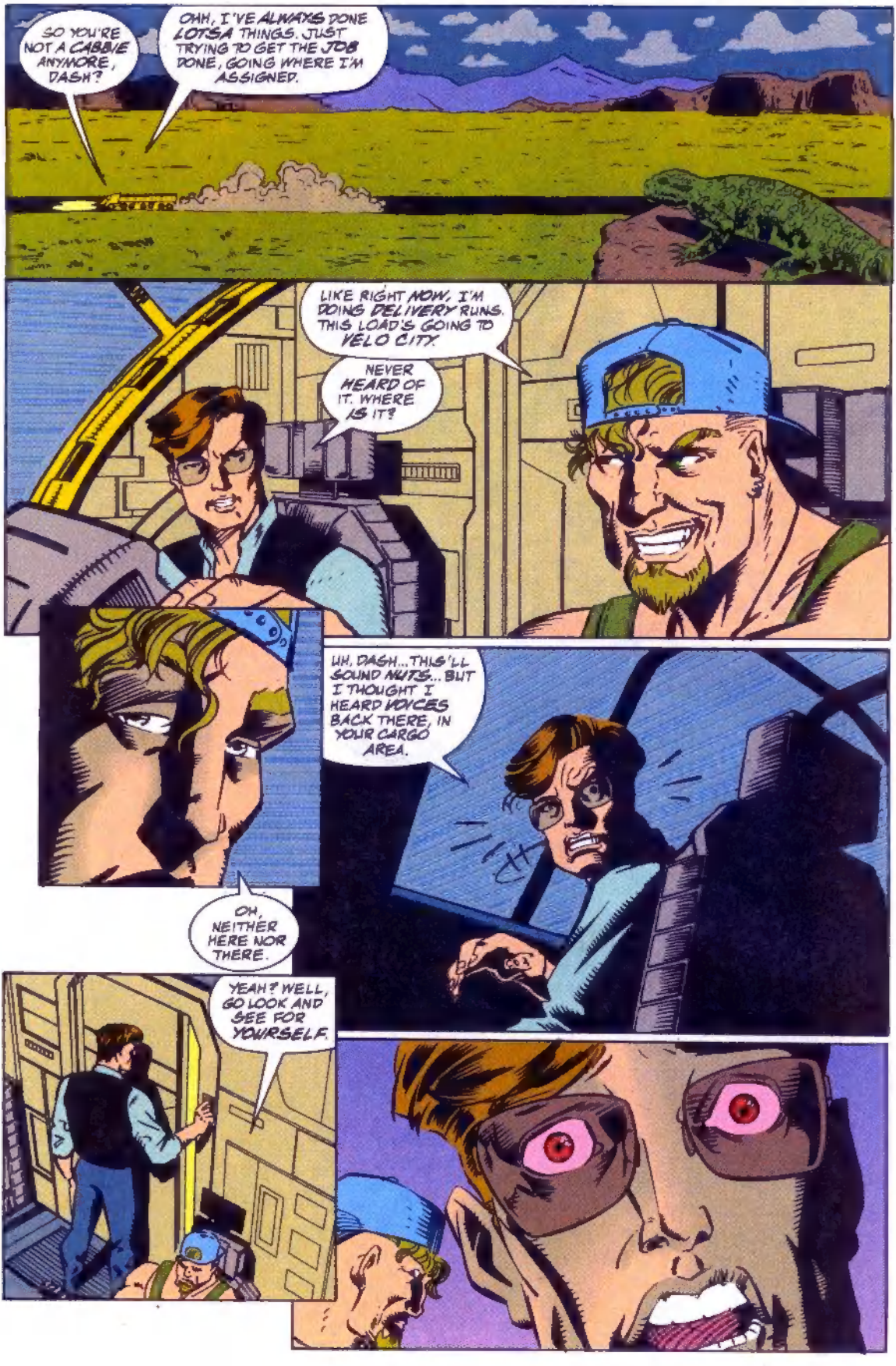

I WONDER IF I'LL SEE HER AGAIN. SEE ANYONE AGAIN.

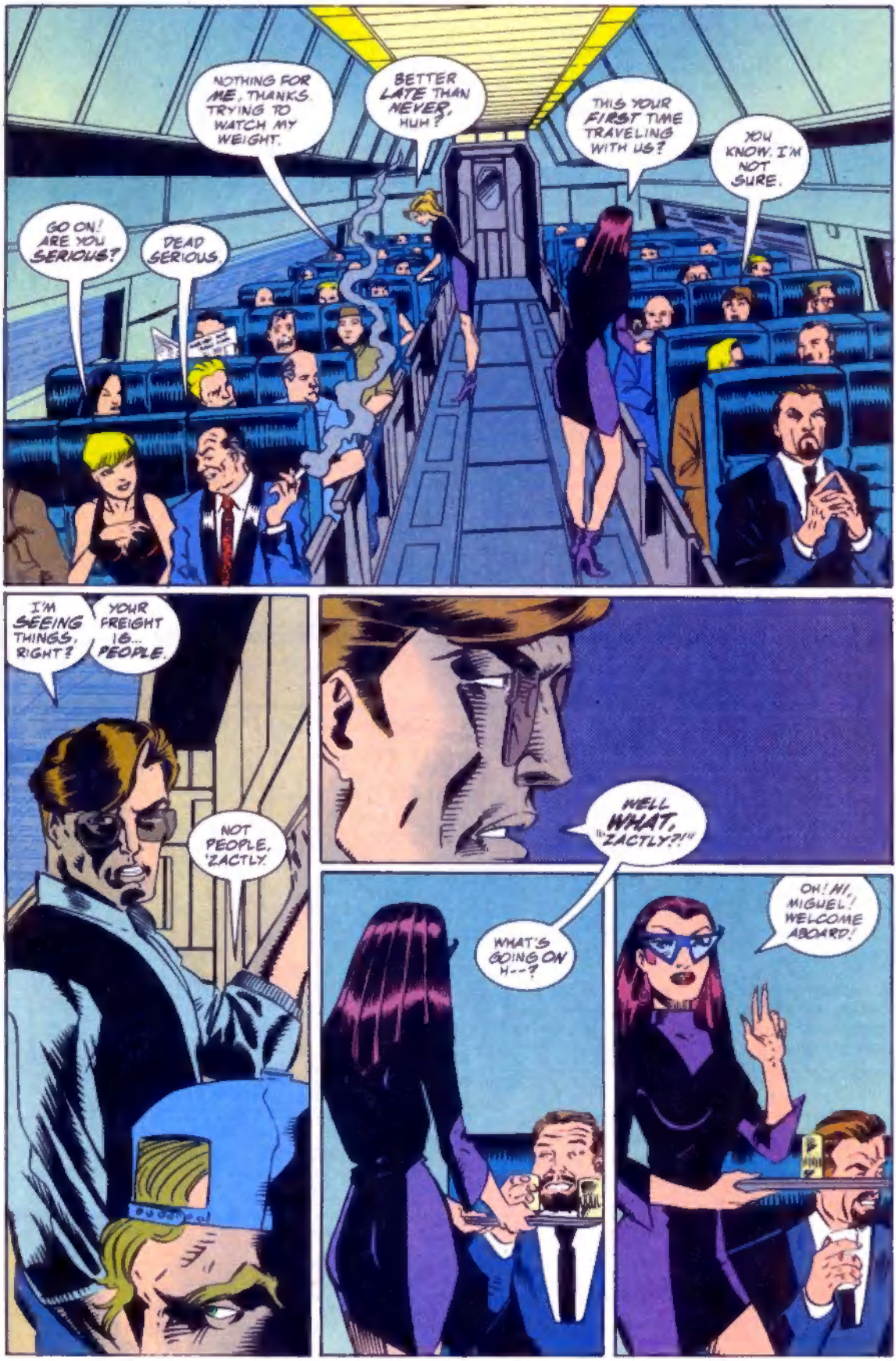
WHY ARE YOU WALKING ON SUCH A HOT DAY?
BEATS RUNNING.
RUNNING AWAY, THAT IS.

HEY, HANDSOME. NEED A LIFT?


THIS IS REALLY NICE OF YOU. I OWE YOU BIG!--
--!!!EEE!!
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND?!
THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT MEN WANT!?
AARRHH
WELL I JUST DID IT TO YOU BEFORE YOU COULD DO IT TO ME, BABY!
THANKS FOR THE BAG OF STUFF. ROT IN HELL, SLIMEBALL.

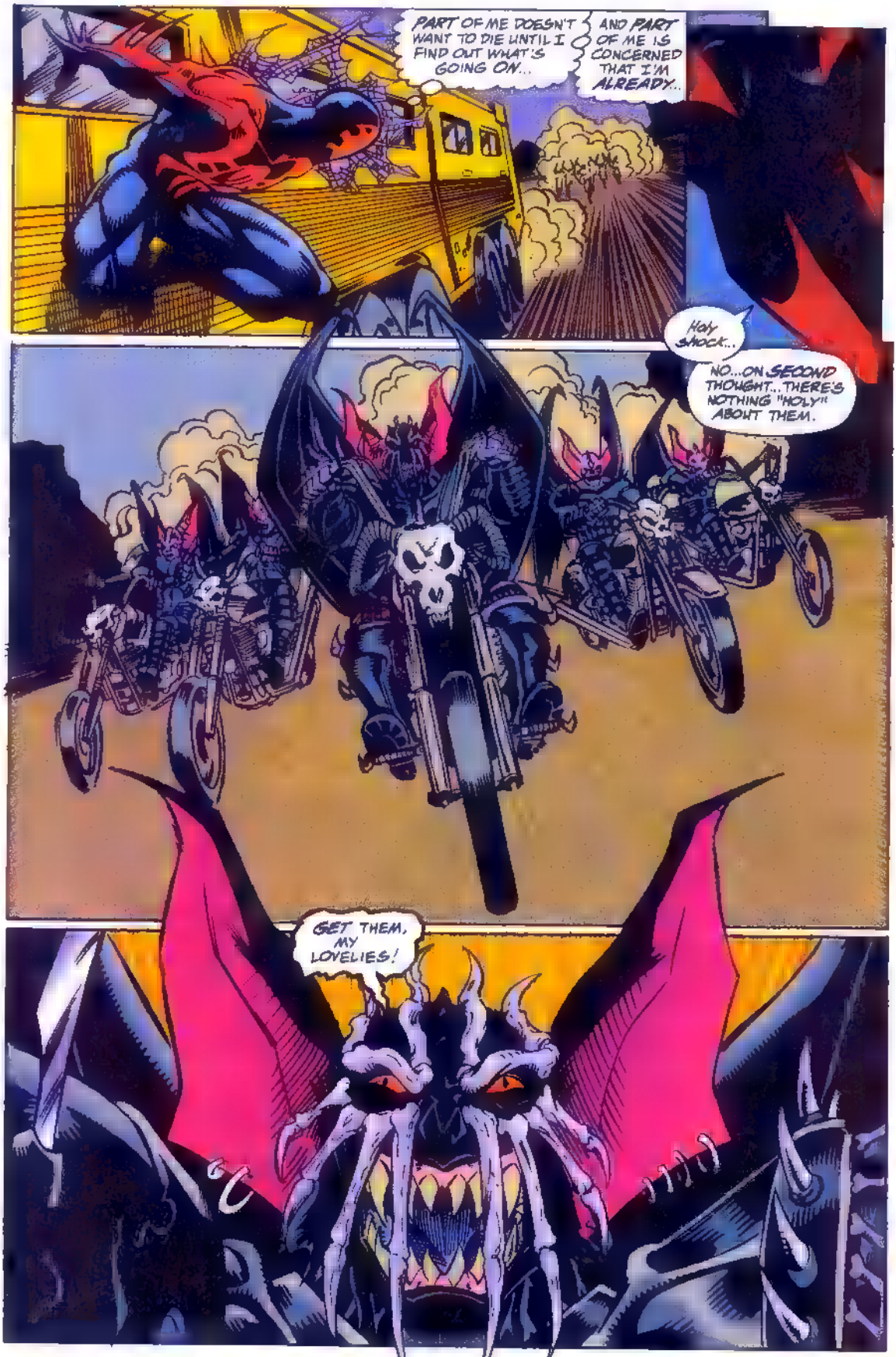

WELL WELL WELL...
GOT YOURSELF INTO ANOTHER FINE FIX, HUH, MIGUEL?
D...DASH? IS THAT... YOU?
THE SAME. AND YOU GROWED UP SOME SINCE WE LAST CHATTED.
VELOCITY OR bust!
C'MON IN. I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT.

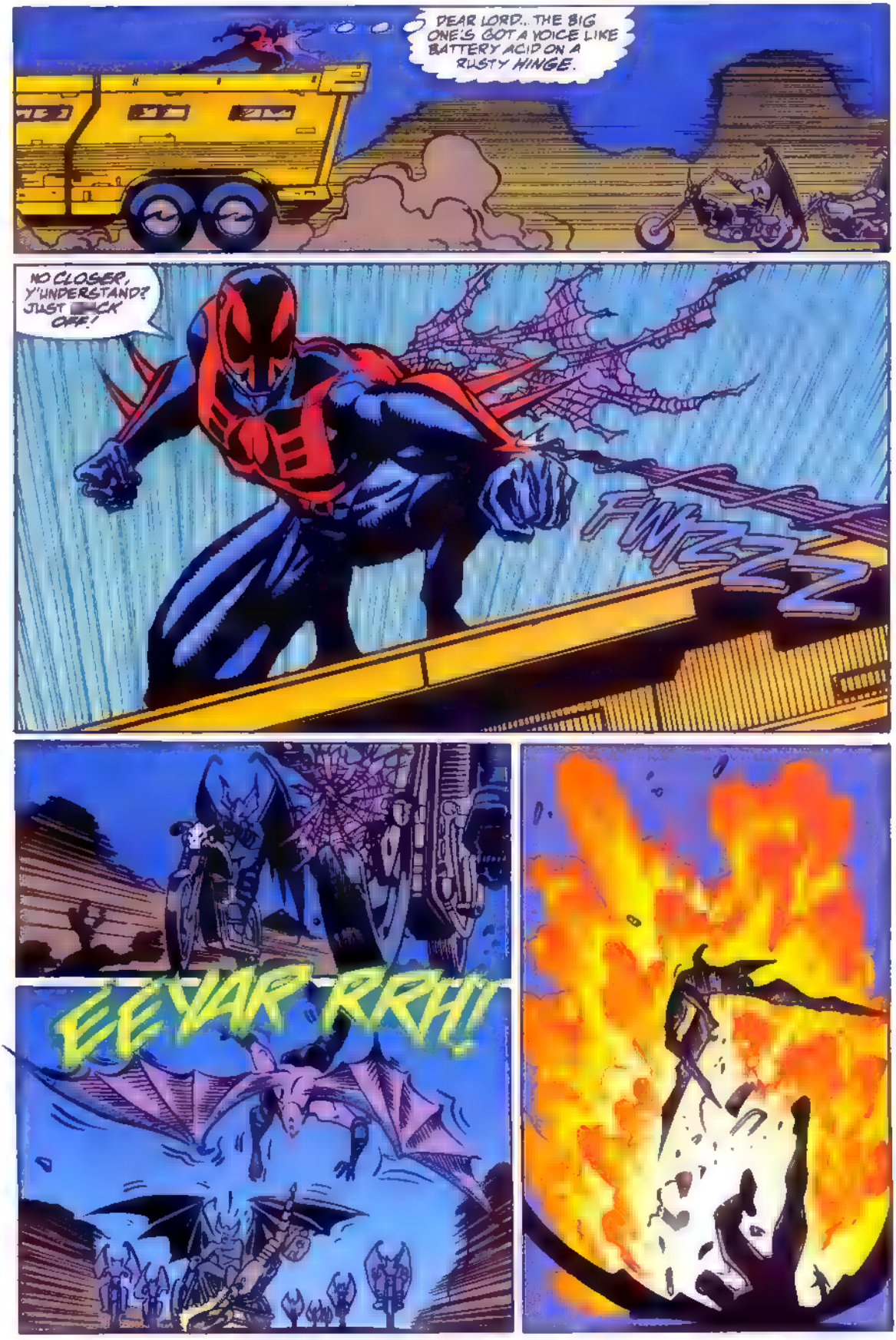

SO YOU'RE NOT A CABBIE ANYMORE, DASH?
OHH, I'VE ALWAYS DONE LOTSA THINGS. JUST TRYING TO GET THE JOB DONE, GOING WHERE I'M ASSIGNED.
LIKE RIGHT NOW, I'M DOING DELIVERY RUNS. THIS LOAD'S GOING TO VELO CITY.
NEVER HEARD OF IT. WHERE IS IT?
UH, DASH... THIS'LL SOUND NUTS... BUT I THOUGHT I HEARD VOICES BACK THERE, IN YOUR CARGO AREA.
OH, NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.
YEAH? WELL, GO LOOK AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.


NOTHING FOR ME, THANKS. TRYING TO WATCH MY WEIGHT.
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, HUH?
THIS YOUR FIRST TIME TRAVELING WITH US?
YOU KNOW. I'M NOT SURE.
GO ON! ARE YOU SERIOUS?
DEAD SERIOUS.
I'M SEEING THINGS, RIGHT?
YOUR FREIGHT IS... PEOPLE.
NOT PEOPLE, 'ZACTLY.
WELL WHAT, "ZACTLY?!"
WHAT'S GOING ON H--?
OH! HI, MIGUEL! WELCOME ABOARD!

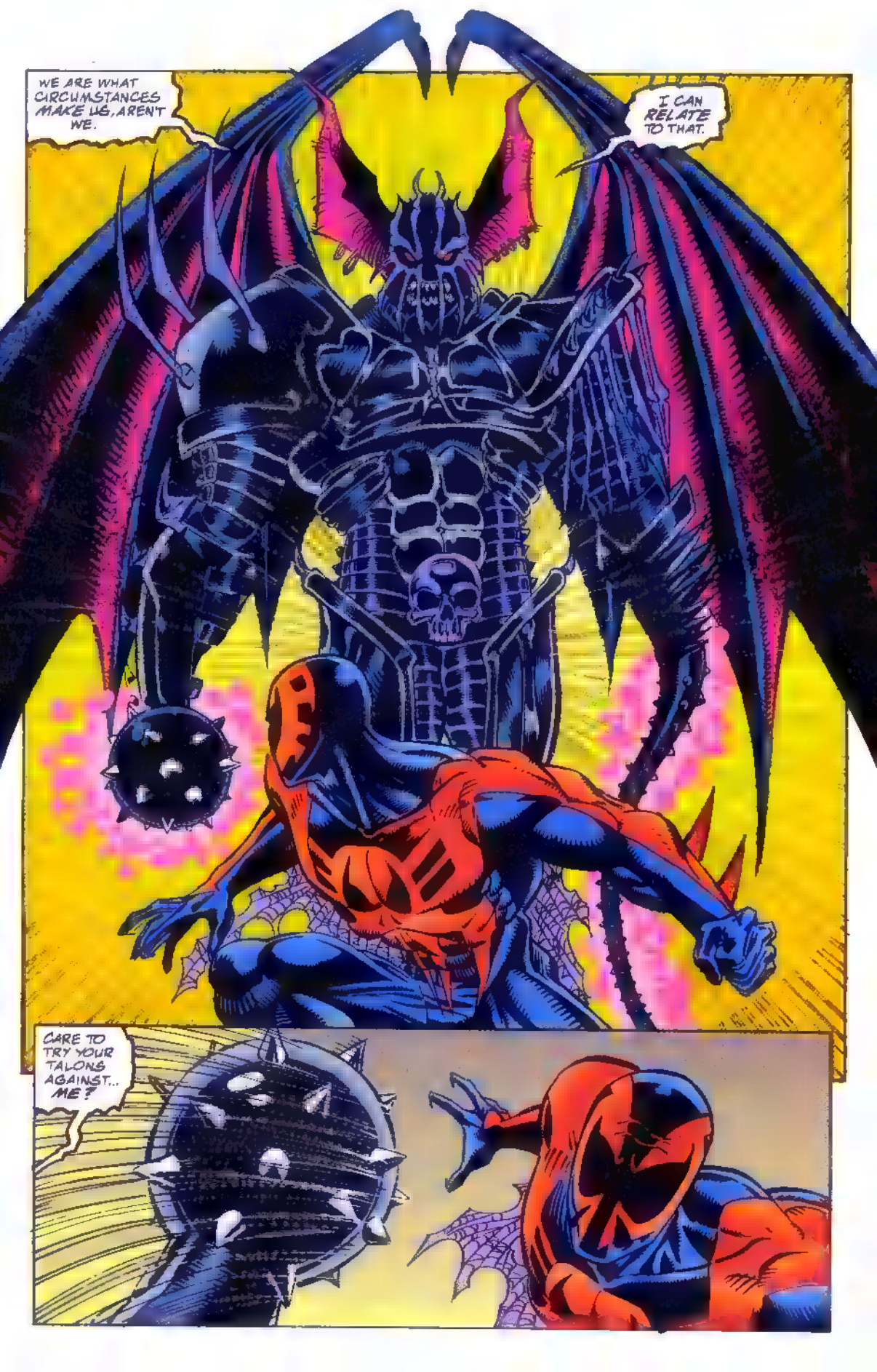
AN...GELA?
THAT'S... ANGELA...
OH, NER. YEAH, WE SAW SHE HAD POTENTIAL...
SO WE PUT HER TO WORK IMMEDIATELY. SHE'S GOING PLACES, THAT ONE.
THIS IS INSANE!
LEMME OUT! RIGHT NOW!!
UH OH.
UH OH? WHAT'S "UH OH?"
IT'S A ROADBLOCK. I WAS AFRAID OF THIS.
I KEEP CHANGIN' MY ROUTE, BUT SOONER OR LATER THEY ALWAYS CATCH UP.
HOLD ON! THIS'LL BE TIGHT!

KOOOM
BLAST! WE'VE BEEN DETOURED!
WHY'S THIS ROAD SO CHOPPY?!
BECAUSE IT'S PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.
WE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE MAIN ROAD, OR WE'LL NEVER MAKE OUR DESTINATION!
THERE'S AN OFF-RAMP ABOUT FIVE MILES UP, BUT THE BATS'LL TRY AND KEEP US ON THIS ROAD.
I NEED YOU TO CHANGE TO SPIDER-MAN AND KEEP THEM OFF MY BUTT.
HOW... HOW DO YOU--?
DON'T ARGUE! JUST DO IT! NOW!!

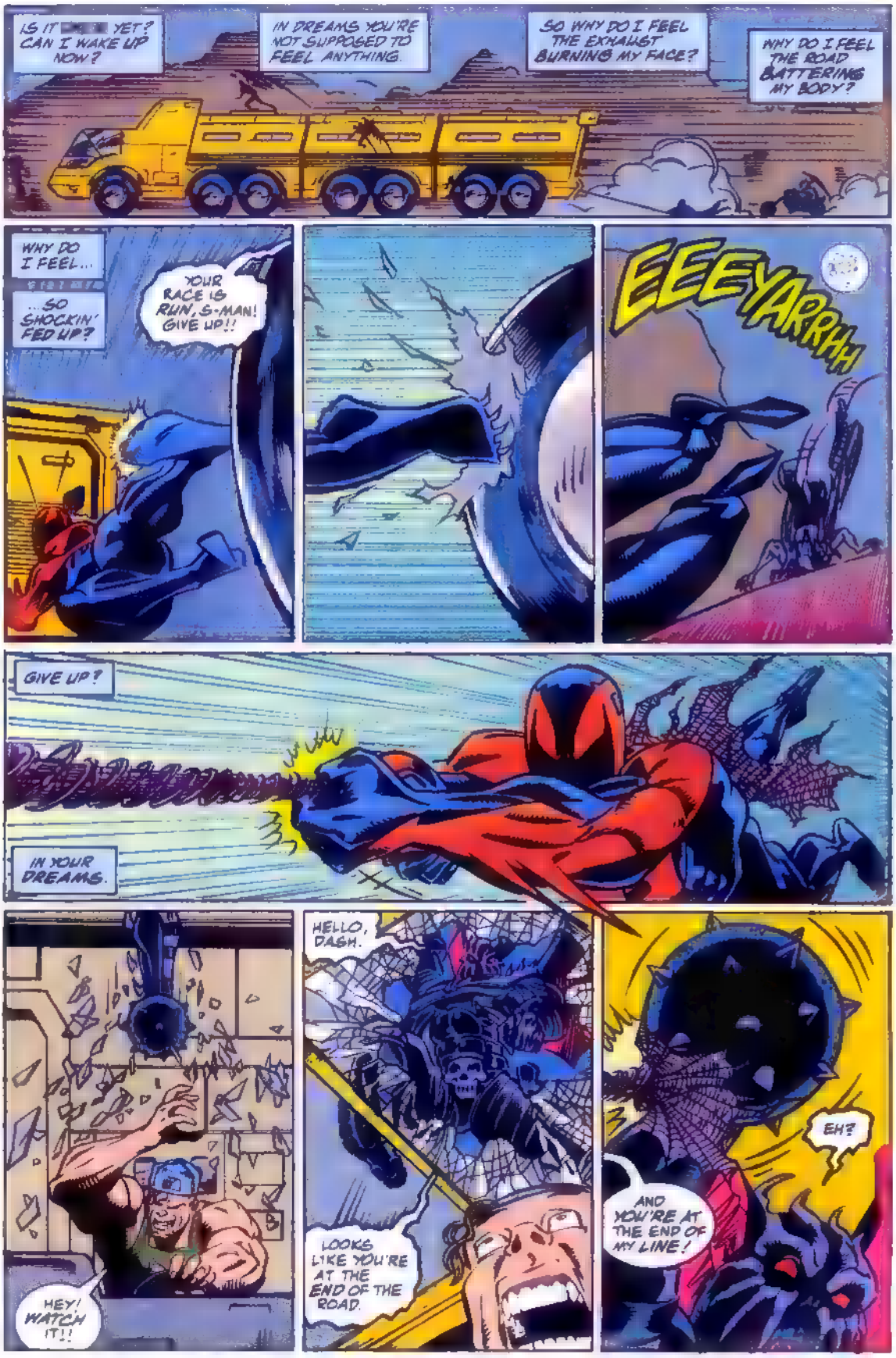

PART OF ME DOESN'T WANT TO DIE UNTIL I FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON...
AND PART OF ME IS CONCERNED THAT I'M ALREADY..
Holy SHOCK...
NO...ON SECOND THOUGHT...THERE'S NOTHING "HOLY" ABOUT THEM.
GET THEM, MY LOVELIES!


DEAR LORD.. THE BIG ONE'S GOT A VOICE LIKE BATTERY ACID ON A RUSTY HINGE.
NO CLOSER, Y'UNDERSTAND? JUST [redacted]CK OFF!
FWZZ
EEYAR RRH!

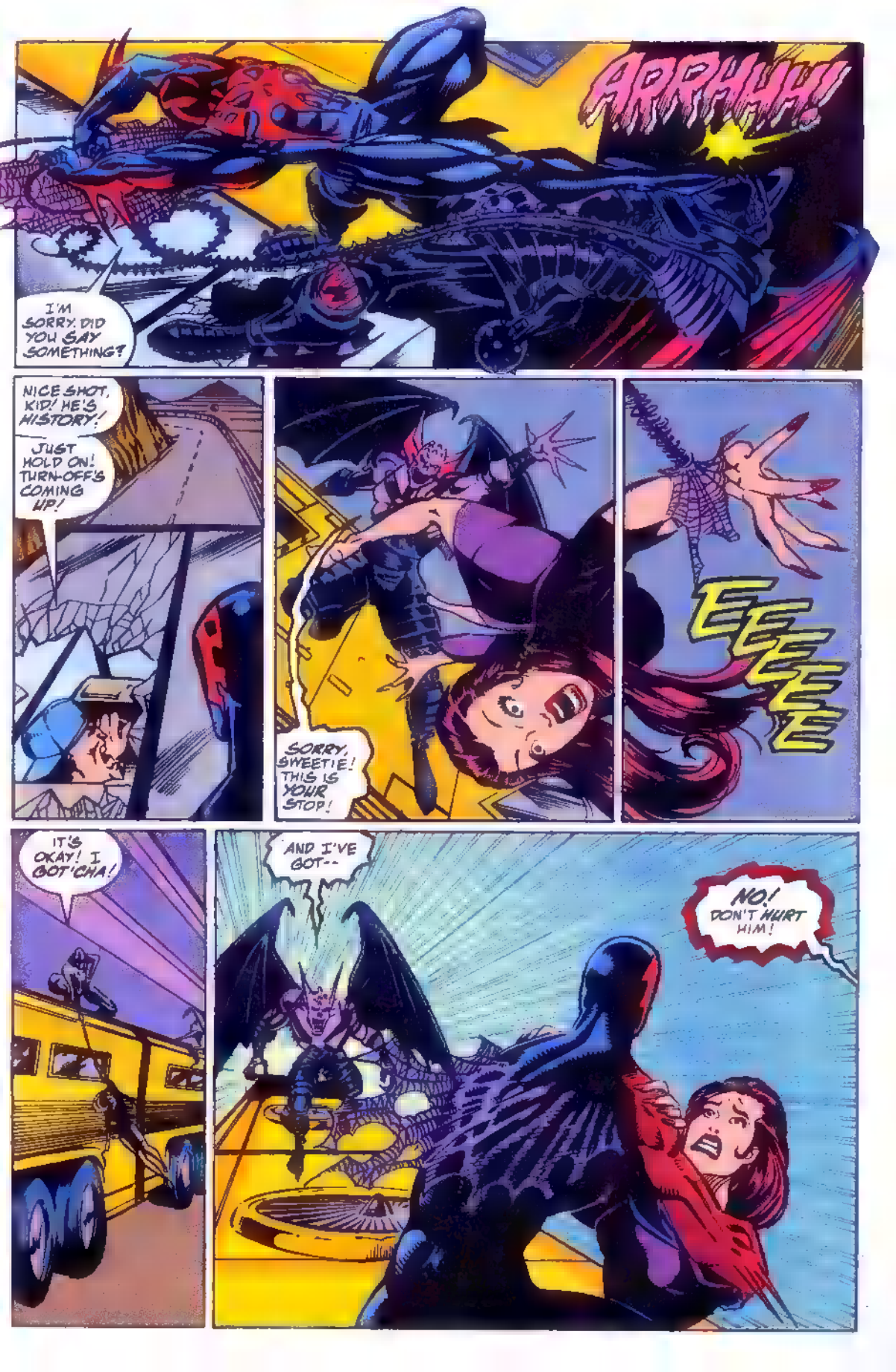
DASH! STEP ON IT! THEY'RE GETTING--
AWW, PEANUTS.
OOOF
ARHHH!
SO, SPIDER-MAN... MORE VICIOUS, MORE FREE WITH THE CLAWS THAN IN YOUR EARLIER DAYS, EH?

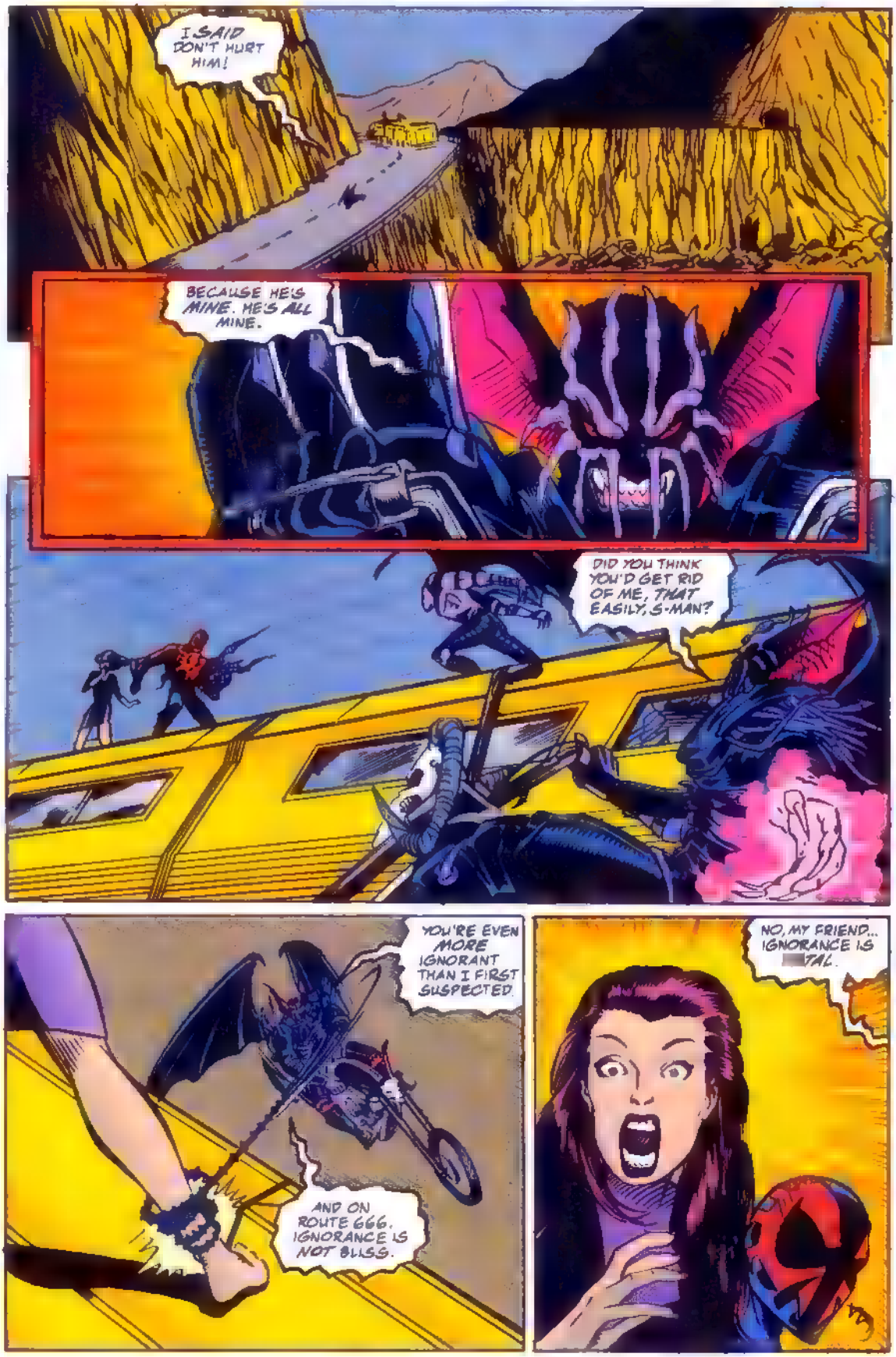

WE ARE WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE US, AREN'T WE.
I CAN RELATE TO THAT.
CARE TO TRY YOUR TALONS AGAINST... ME?

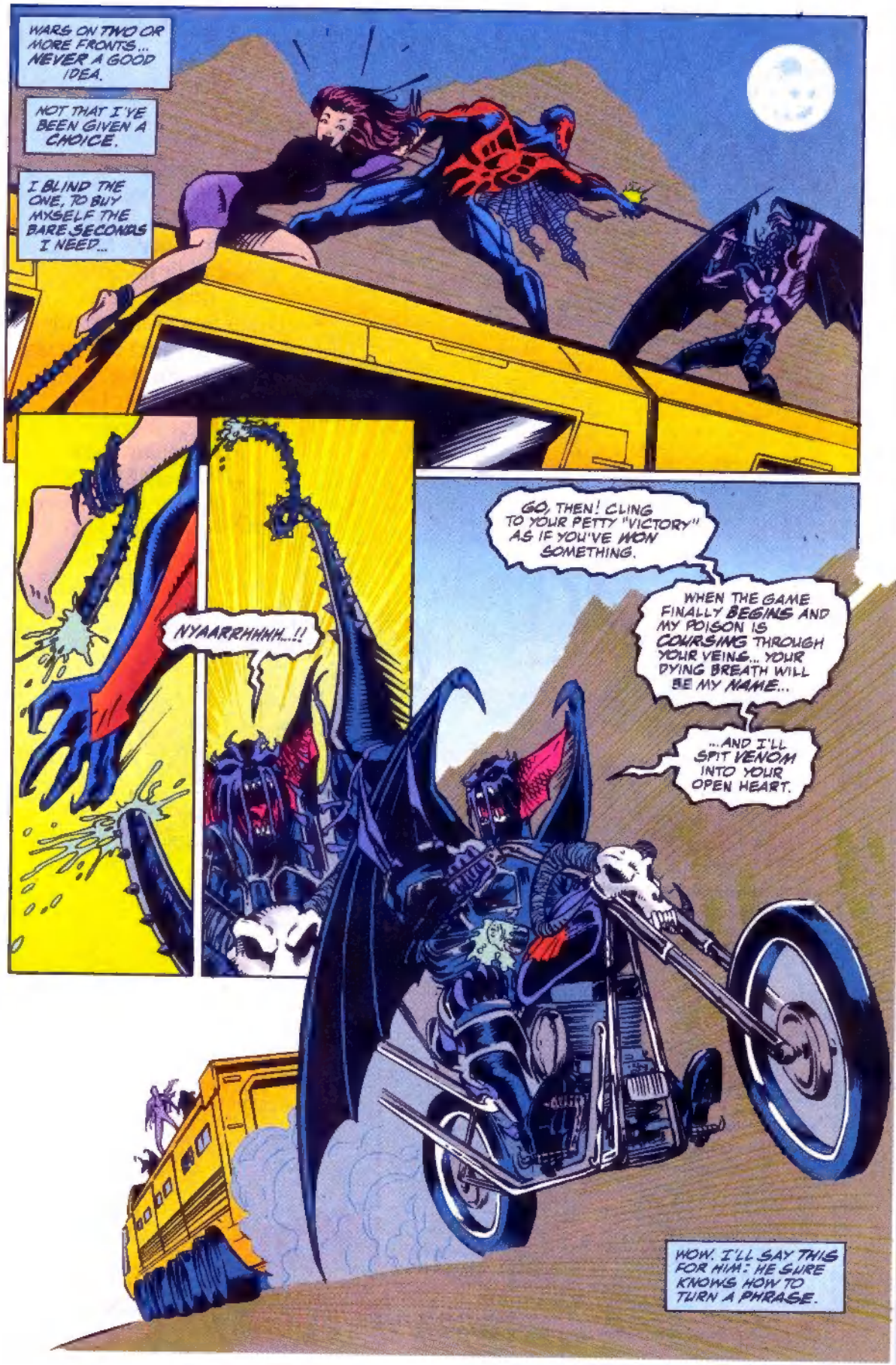
EVERYONE STAY CALM... I ASSURE YOU EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTR--
KRAASH
EEEEEE
ANGELA!!
UNHH!
ARHHH...!
HOLD ON, SPIDER-MAN! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE TO HELP YOU--
--HELP YOU TO AN EARLY GRAVE!


IS IT [redacted] YET? CAN I WAKE UP NOW?
IN DREAMS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO FEEL ANYTHING.
SO WHY DO I FEEL THE EXHAUST BURNING MY FACE?
WHY DO I FEEL THE ROAD BATTERING MY BODY?
WHY DO I FEEL...
...SO SHOCKIN' FED UP?
YOUR RACE IS RUN, S-MAN! GIVE UP!!
EEEYARRHH
GIVE UP?
IN YOUR DREAMS.
HEY! WATCH IT!!
HELLO, DASH.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE AT THE END OF THE ROAD.
EH?
AND YOU'RE AT THE END OF MY LINE!

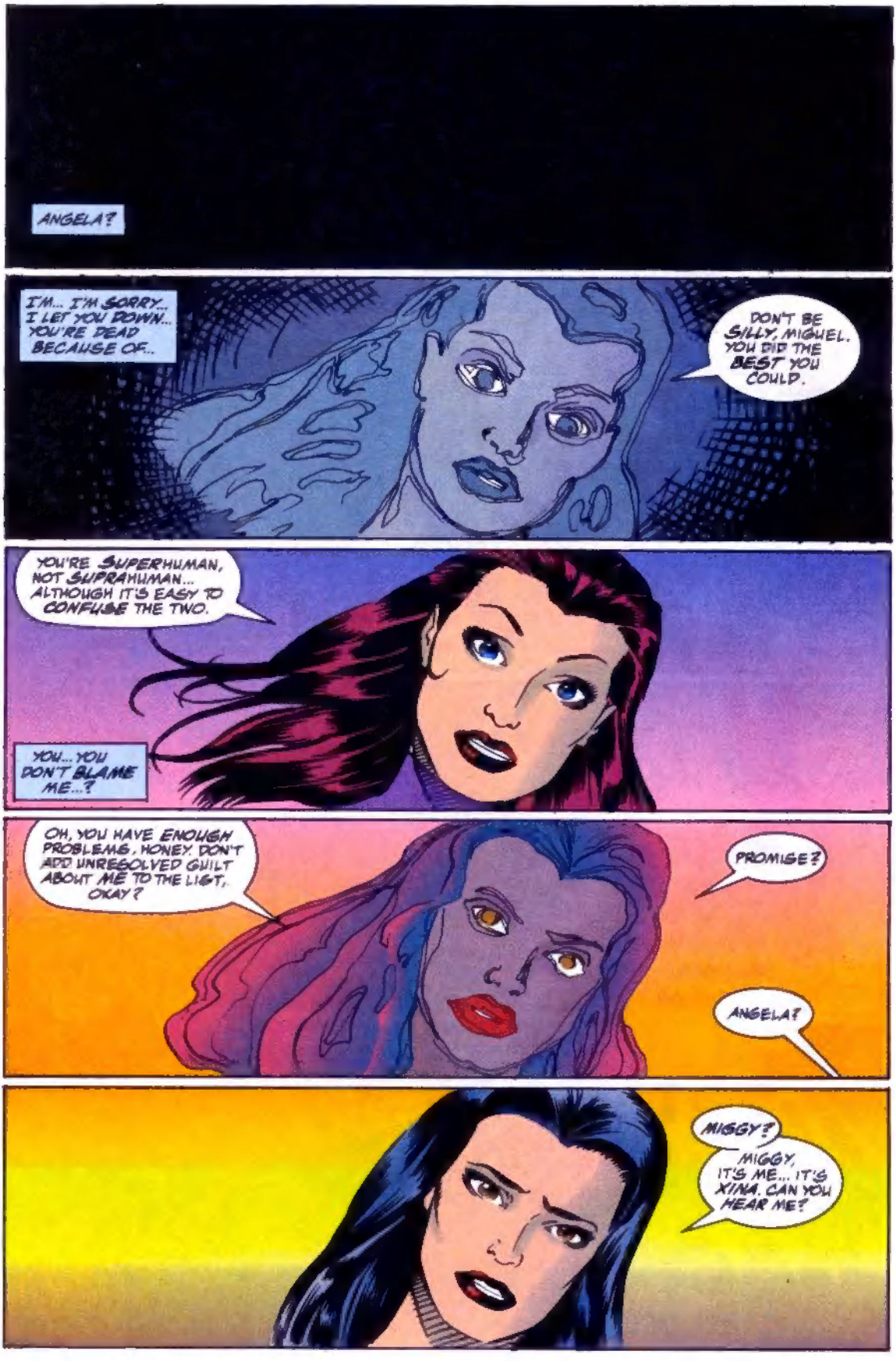
WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST.
MEN, I SAVE FOR DESSERT.
WELL, WELL... HERE WE ARE AGAIN, THOUGH A BIT MORE BATTERED.
YOU HAVE NO [redacted] WHAT YOU'VE INVOLVED YOURSELF IN, DO YOU, SPIDER-MAN?
NO CLUE WHAT'S REALLY AT STAKE...
YOU'RE ALREADY MINE, AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IT.
YOU THINK YOU'VE FOUGHT WARS, DON'T YOU?
IDIOT! EVERYTHING UNTIL NOW [redacted] BEEN BASIC TRAINING! [redacted] SKIRMISHES AT BEST!
AND YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT UNTIL DOOM HAS YOU BY THE THROAT!


ARRHHH!
I'M SORRY. DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
NICE SHOT, KID! HE'S HISTORY!
JUST HOLD ON! TURN-OFF'S COMING UP!
SORRY, SWEETIE! THIS IS YOUR STOP!
EEEEEE
IT'S OKAY! I GOT'CHA!
AND I'VE GOT--
NO! DON'T HURT HIM!


I SAID DON'T HURT HIM!
BECAUSE HE'S MINE. HE'S ALL MINE.
DID YOU THINK YOU'D GET RID OF ME, THAT EASILY, S-MAN?
YOU'RE EVEN MORE IGNORANT THAN I FIRST SUSPECTED.
AND ON ROUTE 666, IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS.
NO, MY FRIEND... IGNORANCE IS [redacted]TAL.


WARS ON TWO OR MORE FRONTS... NEVER A GOOD IDEA.
NOT THAT I'VE BEEN GIVEN A CHOICE.
I BLIND THE ONE, TO BUY MYSELF THE BARE SECONDS I NEED...
NYAARRHHHH...!!
GO, THEN! CLING TO YOUR PETTY "VICTORY" AS IF YOU'VE WON SOMETHING.
WHEN THE GAME FINALLY BEGINS AND MY POISON IS COURSING THROUGH YOUR VEINS... YOUR DYING BREATH WILL BE MY NAME...
...AND I'LL SPIT VENOM INTO YOUR OPEN HEART.
WOW. I'LL SAY THIS FOR HIM: HE SURE KNOWS HOW TO TURN A PHRASE.

HEY! CUPCAKE! GOT THE WEBBING OFF YOUR FACE YET?
THEN LOOK BEHIND YOU!
YOU EXPECT ME TO TAKE YOUR ADVICE?
ACTUALLY, NO.
THAT'S THE JOY OF IT.
EH?


ANGELA?
I'M... I'M SORRY... I LET YOU DOWN... YOU'RE DEAD BECAUSE OF..
DON'T BE SILLY, MIGUEL. YOU DID THE BEST YOU COULD.
YOU'RE SUPERHUMAN, NOT SUPRAHUMAN... ALTHOUGH IT'S EASY TO CONFUSE THE TWO.
YOU... YOU DON'T BLAME ME...?
OH, YOU HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS, HONEY. DON'T ADD UNRESOLVED GUILT ABOUT ME TO THE LIST, OKAY?
PROMISE?
ANGELA?
MIGGY?
MIGGY, IT'S ME... IT'S XINA. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

WHAT THE SHOCK HAPPENED TO YOU?
I'M NOT SURE. WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE HEADING HOME.
I HIT A ROADBLOCK.
THAT BEING...?
MY PICTURING YOU OUT HERE ALONE, TRYING TO MAKE IT WITHOUT ME TO HOLD YOUR HAND.
AFTER ALL, MIGUEL, YOU'RE SO FRAIL. YOU KNOW HOW I WORRY ABOUT YOU.
TRY SAYING THAT WITHOUT SNICKER...
...ING.
SOME PIECE OF CACTUS. SO WHAT?
NOTHING.
I HOPE NOTHING
YOU'RE LUCKY I CHANGED MY MIND. SEEMS TO ME YOU'VE GOT A GUARDIAN ANGEL.
MAYBE. THEN AGAIN, I GOT A FEELING IT'S NOT JUST ANGELS WATCHING OVER ME THESE DAYS.
COULD IT GET WEIRDER? YES. MEET:
STRANGE 2099!